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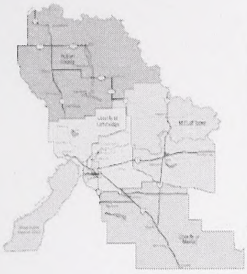

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

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PLEASE NOTE: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION DUE TO INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

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MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

- The Major Municipality that gained the most population according to Statistics Canada census data from 2001 – 2006 (5 Years), in percentage, for the South Central Region was Lethbridge with an increase of 10.8% (7,263 residents).

Please note: Shadow populations are not counted in the census. The province of Alberta has recently experienced an influx of shadow population or seasonal workers due to the economic boom. This has been brought to the attention of Statistics Canada and any revisions will be released in the fall of 2008.

Economic Indicators: South Central Region				
Major Municipalities*	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**1996 Population**
Lethbridge	City	74,637	67,374	64,938
Lethbridge, County of	Municipal District	10,302	9,930	9,290
Taber	Town	7,591	7,671	7,214
Coaldale	Town	6,177	6,008	5,731
Taber, M.D. of	Municipal District	6,280	6,012	5,971
Warner No. 5, County of	Municipal District	3,674	3,798	3,561
Vulcan County	Municipal District	3,718	3,778	3,829
Raymond	Town	3,205	3,200	3,056
Vulcan	Town	1,940	1,762	1,537
Picture Butte	Town	1,592	1,701	1,669
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

*** Top ten cities/towns and municipalities in region, based on population from census years.**

Economic Indicators: South Central Region				
	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		**1996 - 2006 (10 Years)**	
Major Municipalities	**% Change**	**Net Change**	**% Change**	**Net Change**
Lethbridge	10.8%	7,263	14.9%	9,699
Lethbridge, County of	3.7%	372	10.9%	1,012
Taber	-1.0%	(80)	5.2%	377
Coaldale	2.8%	169	7.8%	446
Taber, M.D. of	4.5%	268	5.2%	309
Warner No. 5, County of	-3.3%	(124)	3.2%	113
Vulcan County	-1.6%	(60)	-2.9%	(111)
Raymond	0.2%	5	4.9%	149
Vulcan	10.1%	178	26.2%	403
Picture Butte	-6.4%	(109)	-4.6%	(77)
Source: Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry				

DEMOGRAPHICS

- According to Statistics Canada census data, the South Central Region's population had a percentage increase of 6.8% from 2001 -2006 (5 years) which works out to an increase of 8,296 residents.

- According to Statistics Canada census data, in 2006, the South Central Region's population accounted for 4.0% of the provinces' population.

Please note: Shadow populations are not counted in the census. The province of Alberta has recently experienced an influx of shadow population or seasonal workers due to the economic boom. This has been brought to the attention of Statistics Canada and any revisions will be released in the fall of 2008.

Economic Indicators: South Central Region	
Land Area	**South Central**
Square Kilometers	18,604.5
% of Provincial Total	2.9
Total Population	**South Central***
Population (000s), 2006 Census	131,008
% of Provincial Total	4.0%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	122,712
% of Provincial Total	4.1%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	118,677
% of Provincial Total	4.4%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	6.8%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	10.4%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

* Population Count for Blood 148 First Nations is from Census Figures

Economic Indicators: South Central Region			
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 65+ (%)	13.7	13.3	12.8
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	20.3	22.0	23.7
Dependency Ratio [1]	51.6	54.6	57.4
Old Age Dependency Ratio [2]	20.8	20.6	20.2
Males, Ages 0 -14 (%)	21.1	22.9	24.7
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	19.6	21.1	22.7
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	66.5	65.3	64.1
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	65.3	64.1	62.8
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	12.4	11.8	11.1
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	15.1	14.8	14.5
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

- According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2006, 317 immigrants selected a location in the South Central Region geography as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating once province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

- The annualized percentage growth from 1996 to 2006 for the South Central Region was 0.8%. The annualized percentage growth from 1996 to 2006 for the province of Alberta was 4.0%. The percent change for the South Central Region from 2001 -2006 (5 Years) was 43.4% (96) and the percent change from 1996 – 2006 (10 Years) was 8.6% (25).

Economic Indicators: South Central Region	
Immigrants (Permanent Residents) [3]	**South Central Region**
As of December 31, 1996	292
% of Province	**2.1%**
As of December 31, 1997	277
% of Province	**2.2%**
As of December 31, 1998	259
% of Province	**2.3%**
As of December 31, 1999	227
% of Province	**1.9%**
As of December 31, 2000	257
% of Province	**1.8%**
As of December 31, 2001	221
% of Province	**1.3%**
As of December 31, 2002	219
% of Province	**1.5%**
As of December 31, 2003	232
% of Province	**1.5%**
As of December 31, 2004	263
% of Province	**1.6%**
As of December 31, 2005	300
% of Province	**1.5%**
As of December 31, 2006	317
% of Province	**1.5%**
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1996 - 2006, 10 years [4]	**0.8%**
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry	

NEWLY REGISTERED APPRENTICES

- From December 31, 2001 to December 31, 2006, the number of newly registered apprentices for the South Central Region increased by 102.9% (313 to 635).
- As of December 31, 2006, the South Central Region accounted for 2.5% of all the newly registered apprentices in Alberta (635 of 24,914).
- The annualized percentage growth for the South Central Region from December 31, 2001 to December 31, 2006 was 15.2%. The annualized percentage growth for the same period for the province was 12.2%.
- The top trades that new apprentices registered for, in 2006, in the South Central Region are: Welding (131), Electrician (83), Heavy Equipment Technician (83) and Carpenter (75). The top trades that new apprentices registered for, in 2006, in Alberta are: Welder (4,423), Electrician (3,051) and Heavy Equipment Technician (2,191).

Please note: These figures are based on employer location and only account for first year apprentices. This is not the running total of all apprentices currently enrolled in all trade programs from year one up to their certificate. Several apprentice programs take several years to complete with both on-the-job and classroom training.

Economic Indicators: South Central Region	
Newly Registered Apprentices - All Trades [5]	**South Central**
As of December 31, 2001	313
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.2%**
As of December 31, 2002	297
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.3%**
As of December 31, 2003	296
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.5%**
As of December 31, 2004	308
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.4%**
As of December 31, 2005	465
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.6%**
As of December 31, 2006	635
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	**2.5%**
Annualized Percentage Growth, 2001 - 2006, 5 years [6]	**15.2%**
Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry	

INCOME, TAXFILER

- In 2005, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the South Central Region XXX.

- In 2005, XXXXX of all taxfilers for the South Central Region reported individual gross income of $100,000 and over with the average claim over $100,000 being XXXX.

"COUPLE" INCOME

- In 2005, the average "couple income" for all taxfilers for the South Central Region was XXX.

In 2005, XXXXX of all taxfilers for the South Central Region that declared themselves a "couple", defined as married or common law, reported a combined gross income of $100,000 and over.

INVESTMENT

- In 2006, the total building permit value for the South Central Region increased by 25.5% (roughly $57.2 million) from 2005.

- In 2006, the residential building permit value for the South Central Region increased by 34.1% (roughly $37.0 million) from 2005.

- In 2006, the number of single family housing starts in the South Central Region increased by 43.4% (288 units) from 2005.

- In 2006, the number of total housing starts in the South Central Region increased by 16.5% (158 units) from 2005.

- Between the years 2001 and 2006, there has been 4,254 single family housing starts in the South Central Region. During the same time the total housing starts was 5,819.

Economic Indicators: South Central Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2006)	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Total Building Permit Value ($000s)	282,039	224,811	180,035
% of Provincial Total	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%
Per Capita Building Permit Value ($)[10]	2,153	1,649	1,368
Average Annual Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 2001 - 2006	201,974		
Average Annual Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 1996 - 2006	187,321		
Commercial Building Permit Value ($000s)	54,158	63,933	35,052
% of Total Building Permit Value	19.2%	28.4%	19.5%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	1.5%	2.7%	2.3%
Industrial Building Permit Value ($000s)	25,189	16,505	6,231
% of Total Building Permit Value	8.9%	7.3%	3.5%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	2.4%	1.9%	1.5%
Institutional Building Permit Value ($000s)	57,189	35,862	36,366
% of Total Building Permit Value	20.3%	16.0%	20.2%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	5.6%	4.0%	7.4%
Residential Building Permit Value ($000s)	145,511	108,511	102,386
% of Total Building Permit Value	51.6%	48.3%	56.9%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	1.8%	1.8%	2.1%
Single Family Housing Starts	951	663	683
Average Annual Single Family Housing Starts (2001 – 2006)	709		
Average Annual Single Family Housing Starts (1996 – 2006)	641		
Total Housing Starts	1,115	957	917
Average Annual Total Housing Starts (2001 - 2006)	970		
Average Annual Total Housing Starts (1996 - 2006)	854		
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

- In 2006, 68.8% of all business establishments with employees in the South Central Region were classified in the Services-Producing Sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Good Services, and Public Administration.

- From 2005 - 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the South Central Region was 1.1% (56 net establishments). From 2001 – 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the South Central Region was 1.1% (59 net establishments).

- From 2005 – 2006, the goods-producing sector in the South Central Region saw a net increase of 3.1% (51 net establishments). From 2005 – 2006, the service-producing sector in the South Central Region saw a net increase of 0.1% (5 net establishments).

Economic Indicators: South Central Region

Establishment with Employees[11]	2006	2005	2001	% Change 2005 - 2006	% Change 2001 - 2006
All Industries (Total)	**5,384**	**5,328**	**5,325**	**1.1%**	**1.1%**
Goods-Producing Sector	**1,682**	**1,631**	**1,713**	**3.1%**	**-1.8%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	770	771	871	-0.1%	-11.6%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	122	105	90	16.2%	35.6%
Utilities	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Construction	588	556	542	5.8%	8.5%
Manufacturing	192	189	200	1.6%	-4.0%
Services-Producing Sector	**3,702**	**3,697**	**3,612**	**0.1%**	**2.5%**
Wholesale Trade	296	302	324	-2.0%	-8.6%
Retail Trade	631	628	610	0.5%	3.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	338	335	333	0.9%	1.5%
Information, Culture & Recreation	126	124	126	1.6%	0.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	384	396	354	-3.0%	8.5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	444	419	401	6.0%	10.7%
Business, Building & Other Support Services	250	261	262	-4.2%	-4.6%
Educational Services	50	52	53	-3.8%	-5.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	398	402	372	-1.0%	7.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	279	273	282	2.2%	-1.1%
Other Services	475	472	464	0.6%	2.4%
Public Administration	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Source: 2006 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance Note: N/A - Insufficient sample size, data suppressed. Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES – 1 – 49 EMPLOYEES

- In 2006, 96.0% of all business establishments in the South Central Region were classified as small businesses (Business that have 1 – 49 employees).

- From 2005 - 2006, the net percentage change in small business establishments for all industries in the South Central Region was 0.7% (38 net establishments). From 2001 – 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the South Central Region was 0.4% (23 net establishments).

Economic Indicators: South Central Region

Small Business Establishments [12] (1 - 49 employees)	2006	2005	2001	% Change 2005 - 2006	% Change 2001 - 2006
All Industries (Total)	**5,168**	**5,130**	**5,145**	**0.7%**	**0.4%**
Goods-Producing Sector	**1,623**	**1,578**	**1,663**	**2.9%**	**-2.4%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	765	766	862	-0.1%	-11.3%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	121	104	90	16.3%	34.4%
Utilities	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Construction	569	542	533	5.0%	6.8%
Manufacturing	158	156	168	1.3%	-6.0%
Services-Producing Sector	**3,545**	**3,552**	**3,482**	**-0.2%**	**1.8%**
Wholesale Trade	290	296	316	-2.0%	-8.2%
Retail Trade	598	597	583	0.2%	2.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	326	325	322	0.3%	1.2%
Information, Culture & Recreation	117	116	122	0.9%	-4.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	375	386	350	-2.8%	7.1%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	440	416	399	5.8%	10.3%
Business, Building & Other Support Services	246	258	259	-4.7%	-5.0%
Educational Services	43	45	46	-4.4%	-6.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	367	371	346	-1.1%	6.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	248	248	257	0.0%	-3.5%
Other Services	472	471	461	0.2%	2.4%
Public Administration	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Source: 2006 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance Note: N/A - Insufficient sample size, data suppressed. Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

- As of June 30, 2007, there were 40 projects in all industries for the South Central Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or completed.

- As of June 30, 2007, the total value for these 40 projects in all industries for the South Central Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or completed was $1.0 billion.

Please note: 2007 and 2006 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: South Central Region

Major Construction Projects, As of June 30 [13]

	Projects		Value ($millions)	
Industry Sector	**2007**	**2006**	**2007**	**2006**
Agriculture and Related	6	3	$395.0	$113.0
Commercial/Retail	2	2	$42.5	$45.0
Infrastructure	13	7	$193.7	$79.7
Institutional	11	12	$251.5	$227.2
Pipelines	2	1	$10.8	$5.8
Power	2	3	$30.0	$224.0
Tourism/Recreation	4	3	$96.5	$63.8
TOTAL	**40**	**31**	**$ 1,020.0**	**$ 758.5**

Source: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at $5 million or greater, that have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent / developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent / developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions

1 Dependency Ratio – As of May 2006, the percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – As of May 2006, the percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 - 64).This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

3 Permanent Immigrants - Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.

4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1996 - 2006, 10 Years (%) - The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.

5 Newly Registered Apprentices - All Trades - The number of apprentices that are newly enrolled in a designated trade program. The apprentices must be enrolled by their original employer by December 31 of the year. Regional data is based on original employer location.

6 Annualized Percentage Growth, 2001 – 2006, 5 Years (%) - The average annual increase in newly registered apprentices for the 5 year period.

7 Annual Labour Force Characteristics - Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. Insufficient sample sizes).

LABOUR FORCE: Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed.

PARTICIPATION RATE: Number of persons from the Labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.

8 Annual Employment by Industry - Based on the Labour Force Survey data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).

9 Income (2005) – Individual Income (2005) - Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2005**. Couple Income (2005) –** Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2005**.**

10 Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) - Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.

11 Annual Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)

12 Small Business Establishments - Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.

13 Major Projects – As of June 2007, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at $5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, print edition is updated quarterly.

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